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THE
C H R O N I C L E
OF THE
Kingdom of the Cassiterides,
UNDER THE
R E I G N
OF THE
H O U S E of L U N E N.
A F R A G M E N T.

Translated from an ancient Manuscript.

L O N D O N.

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M D C C L X X X I I I.

1783.

THE
CHRONICLE

OF THE
Kingdom of the Netherlands

1578/4029.

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W. L. G. WILKIE

P R E F A C E.

THESE papers fell into my hands accidentally this summer, as executor to a gentleman in the west of England, who lived to a great age. The early part of his life he spent at the University, where he acquired a considerable degree of knowledge, after which he travelled over not only a great part of Europe, but also into Asia. And being a lover of antiquities, and well versed in the Oriental languages, collected a number of manuscripts; and amongst the rest, that from whence this fragment of history was translated.

Amongst his papers I found the following account of the manner by which he obtained it.

The manuscript (says he) of which these papers are a translation, was given me by a Scheik, or Chief, of one of the tribes of Arabs, with whom I was well acquainted, during my residence in Egypt.

This man coming to me one day, “ My
 “ friend (says he) here is a manuscript which
 “ fell into the hands of my ancestors many
 “ ages ago, on the sacking of a city in Aby-
 “ sinia, by the Saracens, in the first cen-
 A 2 tury

“ tury of our computation, but in the fe-
 “ venth according to yours. You will won-
 “ der how such a thing as this came to be
 “ saved amidst such a scene of desolation
 “ and plunder; but tradition informs us,
 “ that it happened to be deposited in a chest
 “ of silver, to which accident it owed its
 “ preservation.

“ It must be very ancient, for I never yet
 “ met with a person who understood the lan-
 “ guage in which it was wrote; to me it
 “ is of little use; to you who are a searcher
 “ after antiquities, it may be valuable.” Say-
 ing this, he delivered it into my hands. On
 examination, I found it wrote in the ancient
 Syriac language, of which having some small
 degree of knowledge, and being also struck
 with some passages in the relation, I deter-
 mined to attempt the translation of it. And
 with great difficulty, during my residence in
 the East, compleated my design.

On my voyage back from Alexandria, land-
 ing at Naples, and purposing to pursue the
 rest of my journey home through Italy and
 France by land, I consigned the greatest
 part of my effects to the care of a merchant
 in that city, to be sent after me to England
 by sea.

Accordingly, they were shipped on board a
 vessel bound to Plymouth, which meeting
 with a violent storm soon after she had pas-
 sed the streights of Gibraltar, a great part of
 the

the lading was thrown overboard, and amongst the rest, (to my irreparable loss) the chest in which this and some other manuscripts were contained. — So far my late friend.

The history being curious, and affording me much entertainment in the perusal, I thought it might give some amusement, to a few lovers of antiquity at least; and at the same time, by carrying the thoughts of others back to so remote a period, might tend to divert their attention from contemplating the not very pleasing picture of our own times.

The title of the original was, The Chronicle of the Kingdom of the Cassiterides, under the Reigns of the House of Lunen. I should add, that a great part of the original seems to have been lost, (an accident which in the course of so many ages is very easy to be accounted for) as it begins in the twenty-first chapter of the Second Book, with the death of the second King of that race; and breaks off abruptly about the twenty-third year of his successor.

I must confess that the loss of the latter part of this history gave me a very sensible concern; for though it may to some readers appear ridiculous for a man to interest himself in the fate of a country so distant, and which flourished in ages so remote from ours; yet, I must own that my curiosity was excited to learn by what means a people

so great and powerful as those are described to have been, and who through their own ignorance or pride, or through the weakness or wickedness of their rulers, or perhaps from a mixture of all, had involved themselves in such a labyrinth of difficulties, would extricate themselves therefrom.

And I was also desirous of knowing whether they afterwards sunk into total oblivion, or again raised themselves into some degree of consequence, amidst the surrounding nations. —But these are circumstances of which we must be content to remain in entire ignorance.

The names being so very ancient, if not quite obsolete, I have been for some time exercising my imagination in endeavouring to find out the people of whom this history treats. But though we are not altogether unacquainted with the appellations of some of the countries here mentioned, yet I must confess with regard to the people themselves, as well as to the land in which the colonies were planted, after many fruitless efforts, I was at last obliged entirely to give up my pursuit.

The island of the Atlantides is too fabulous to build any thing on such a foundation. The city of Carthage came next into my mind, as a state famous for its colonies; but it is well known that the fate of that empire was brought about, not by civil dissensions, but by the superior power of an irresistible enemy.

As

As few of the names of the tribes or nations, mentioned in this history, are to be met with even in the most ancient authors, it is evident that these events must have happened in the earliest ages of the world, probably before the foundation of the Roman empire.

But without puzzling myself or others about the Epocha of this history, I think I may venture to assert that it has two recommendations—the one, of its immense antiquity; the other, of the excellent lesson it holds forth to mankind.

I will just hint one observation more, which is, that from the affinity the stile of this history bears to that of scripture, as well as from several other particulars, it seems to have been wrote by one of the Hebrew nation; not impossibly by a descendant from one of the ten tribes, who by some authors have been asserted to have been carried captives into that country.

I have nothing farther to add, but my wishes that the reader may meet with the same entertainment in the perusal, which it has afforded to his

Most Humble Servant,

The EDITOR.

Br—w—r,
Dec. 1782.

T H E
C H R O N I C L E S

O F T H E

K I N G S o f t h e C A S S I T E R I D E S .

A F R A G M E N T .

B O O K t h e S E C O N D .

C H A P . X X I .

AND behold in those days it came to pass, that the house of Lunen reigned over the islands of the Cassiterides. And the second prince of that race died full of years and honours, and he left his dominions in a flourishing state; yea, so full of riches did he leave them, as no other prince had done aforetime; and he was gathered to his fathers, and his son's son reigned in his stead.

And the nation traded to Lusitania, to the coasts of the great Hesperia, to Betica, to the land of gold and ivory, to the country of Seres, to the Pillars of Hercules; hundreds of leagues to the east thereof, and many hundreds to the west, and far also to the
B north;

north ; and their ships, laden with merchandize and riches from every quarter of the world, came into their ports with every wind that blew ; and their merchants were the princes of the earth.

And the colonies which this people had planted in the isles, and the land of Amer, had become great and flourishing, and the King was lord over them also, as well as over the Indies, and the isles of the Cassiterides ; and his sway was great and powerful, and to his dominions there were scarcely any bounds.

And behold his generals, his armies, and his navies, had fought and gained great and wonderful victories over the Gauls and Iberians ; and he was the most powerful of all the princes who had ever set on the throne of those kingdoms. And at length, after many battles, a peace was concluded. Howbeit, the people were not pleased with the peace ; yet the peace brought a breathing time to the people, and gave rest and comfort to many nations, and left the dominions of the King great and flourishing.

Nevertheless the war had been long, and great treasures had been spent, and the people were burthened with taxes ; but the trade and riches of the country had increased beyond measure.

But, lo ! the man who presided over the treasures of the country wanted wisdom, and
he

he attended not to the increase of riches in the nation, but he communed with himself, and said : The children of this country are heavily taxed, and the children of Amer are not taxed at all ; why should the people of this land be burdened, and the others go free ? Let us tax the land of Amer, and ease the burden of the people at home. But the treasurer erred and was deceived, for he wist not of the state of that country. For the land of Amer was of a vast extent ; a land full of timber and iron, and the country abounded with corn, and herds, and flocks, and was plentifully stored with fish and fowl ; it yielded also silk and cotton, and was a land flowing with honey, and with every thing comfortable and convenient for the use of man. Her ships were numberless, and her trade extended to the north, and to the east, and far even unto the south.

Nevertheless, though the land was blessed with plenty, and the people thereof were industrious ; yet they were a nation of husbandmen, mariners, and merchants ; and they were destitute of men skilled in curious and cunning works, of workers on tin, and copper, and iron ; of fine linen, silk, and embroidery ; of inlayers in wood and precious stones, and of all manner of cunning works. And whatsoever things they wanted of this kind, lo ! did they not seek it from their brethren ?

thren? And the wealth of the children of Amer found its way to the country of the Cassiterides.

But the treasurer was blind, and saw not these things; and behold he went and laid the tax before the great council of the nation; and, lo! it was pleasant in their eyes, and it passed into a law.

C H A P. XXII.

AND when the children of Amer heard thereof they were amazed, and they complained and said: Are ye not masters of the produce of our land, whether corn, or timber, or iron; whatever we draw out of the sea, or gain by traffic, do not all the fruits of our labours rest with you, and what more would ye have of us? and we are taxed by the great council of your nation, and, lo! whom have we to plead in our behalf?

But the laws of the Cassiterides were not like the laws of the Medes and Persians, which change not; for behold, when the cry of the children of Amer came up, and reached the ears of the great council of the nation, they made the law void. And the children of Amer were content.

And those who were wise amongst the people at home rejoiced also, and were right glad.

glad. For they said, will not this division between the countries end in a war? and will not our ancient enemies, the Gauls and Iberians, lay in wait, and take advantage thereof, to the utter ruin of us both?

And the people were happy for a season, howbeit these times lasted not long:

C H A P. XXIII.

FOR the people of the Cassiterides were grown rich, and to whatever they set their hands, lo! it prospered; and they were filled with plenty, and waxed fat, and forgot the Lord their God; and they followed not his laws, nor regarded his statutes: they worshipped Mammon and Ashtaroth, and did they not raise altars to the Goddesses of Fortune, and sacrifice their children thereon? And the knowledge of their Creator was almost wholly rooted out of their hearts; and the Lord was wroth, and said: Have I not made these people a great nation, and crowned their undertakings with success? Have I not beat down their enemies under their feet? Have I not filled their barns with plenty, and their land with silver and gold?

And yet, have they not despised my sabbaths and rebelled against my laws? and are they not become a people altogether wicked and corrupt? And shall I not visit for these things?

things? Yea in mercy will I visit them, lest a greater evil befall them.

And he suffered an evil spirit, a spirit of delusion, to go forth, and it seized on the multitude; and it spread wider and wider, and lo! at length it reached even unto the elders of the people, and a tax on the children of Amer was proposed a second time; and the people cried, and said, why should not the children of Amer be taxed? And the law passed.

And when the children of Amer heard thereof, they were greatly astonished and confounded, and they cloathed themselves with sackcloth and put ashes on their heads; and they came before the rulers of the people, and they petitioned as heretofore.

But the rulers of the people turned a deaf ear to their complaints, and they rejected their petitions, yea with scorn did they reject them! and instead thereof, heavier and severer burdens were laid upon them.

And behold now the hearts of the children of Amer sunk within them: and they gathered together and said, What do our brethren mean, or what would they have of us? They are become a people altogether unjust and oppressive; and lo! if we submit to their burdens will they not lay heavier on us? For verily, amongst them we have none to defend us; and we must either become their bondsmen, or defend ourselves; there is no other choice left for us.

CHAP.

C H A P. XXIV.

AN D they took courage, and armed themselves, and went and sought for succour and assistance amongst the enemies of the Cassiterides; and the Gauls remembered their ancient losses and defeats, and the many obstacles the people of those islands had thrown in the way of their proud and oppressive designs, and they were glad to behold this division amongst their enemies, and they rejoiced exceedingly; and the Princes of the land said one to another, now is the season arrived to pull down the power and insolence of these Islanders; have they not begun the business themselves? Is it not already half done to our hands? And shall we miss the opportunity of compleating it? No! if we do, may we never again behold our revenge upon our enemies.

Let us cloath ourselves with dissimulation and craft; let us set up for the supporters of innocence; let us call ourselves the avengers of the oppressed; let us take the weaker part, till they have mutually wasted each other, and both together fall into the pit we have dug for them.

And then who shall set bounds to our conquests? We will carry our victories to the very ends of the earth. And they entered into a league with the children of Amer; and the
the

the foundation of the league was this : That the war should not cease, nor the sword be sheathed, till the children of Amer should be free from the dominion of their brethren.

And this was the reward that the rulers of the Cassiterides met with, for all their hard-heartedness and pride ; for their enemies said, Lo ! do not those people wish to oppress their brethren, and have they not demanded unreasonable things from them ?

And shall we not defeat their designs ? — No : We will not lay down our arms ; the trumpet shall sound, and the warlike instruments shall not cease, till the sons of Amer are as free as the children of the Cassiterides themselves.

And the Iberians entered into the league, and the war began, and the success thereof was various ; for the Cassiterides were a great, powerful, and warlike nation : and though they had so many enemies to contend with, yet they behaved themselves manfully.

But the spirit of delusion still continued, for though the war was entered into in the fifteenth year of the reign of the King, yet it still raged in the twentieth ; and there were other causes which contributed to the continuance of the war.

C H A P. XXV.

THERE were a race of people, the children of Caled, and their habitations were in the northernmost part of the island. And their forefathers had rebelled once, yea twice, against the forefathers of the King, without a cause; and had waged war against them, to deprive them of their crowns and dominions.

But though their designs prospered for a season, yet in the end they were defeated with a great slaughter; yea, they were defeated by a Prince of the house of Lunen: and he was a valiant man and a lover of his country. Their rebellion was crushed; their men were slain; and their leaders put to death. But yet they repented them not of the evil; but lay in wait for revenge.

And there were some of the descendants and kindred of these people who found their way to the court of the Cassiterides; and they bent the knee, and flattered, and were full of craft and subtilty, and they found favour in the sight of the Great, (for the sins of the people did they find favour) and they said to each other, Now is the season arriving when we shall be revenged of our enemies, when we shall be avenged for our friends which were slain.

This people have been too powerful and mighty for us in arms ; but do they not lay open to our counsels ? Let us give them insidious advice ; let us go and persuade the rulers of the people to continue the war on the children of Amer.

Let us represent them as a stiff-necked, and stubborn generation ; yea, as enemies to the power of Kings.

Let us lay before the rulers the probability of success ; let us dress up the delusion with all our art and cunning ; let us tempt them with the prospect of more absolute sway ! And should our counsels prevail, though peradventure we may not utterly ruin, and bring to destruction this people, whom we hate ; yet shall we not pull down their pride, reduce them to poverty, and fill our habitations with their spoils and riches.

And accordingly they went and advised the rulers of the people, (and it pleased the Lord, for the wickedness of the people, that their evil counsels should prevail) and the war continued, and raged more than ever.

C H A P. XXVI.

AND behold, the burdens of the people were not lessened ; yea, they were greatly increased, and the workers in linen,
and

and wool, and cotton; in tin, and iron; in silver and precious stones, found no one to purchase the labours of their hands. The loom stood still, the grindstone turned not, and the noise of the hammers ceased. The streets were empty, and the habitations of the people were shut up; for the merchants were ruined, and the trade of the country was fled, for the ships and the mariners were all taken up in the war, and the handicraftsmen were become armed, saying — lest we perish; for we had better be killed than starve.

And the people wondered and were confounded, and said, Did we not enter into this war with the children of Amer to lessen our burdens, and behold, are they not increased two-fold? For our corn and our merchandize we find no vent—our own people are reduced to poverty, and we have neither ships nor mariners to carry our merchandize abroad; and for all that we stand in need of from other countries, lo! doth not the price continually increase upon us?

And they were silent, and held their tongues; and they were filled with amazement and dismay: for they beheld evils pouring in upon them on every side, and they were greatly confounded. And they cast their eyes around, and lift up their voices again, and cried, Whence are we to look for help? and from what quarter are we to hope

for deliverance? And the spirit of delusion began to cease.

And they gathered themselves together by hundreds and by thousands, and they petitioned the great council of the nation; and they implored them to lessen the number of the King's servants, and to manage the treasures of the kingdom.

And the great council listened to them, and their friends began to prevail; and the people took heart and expected great things, but their expectations were vain, for lo! in the end, the great council did nothing; for the chief part of the council were bribed with silver and gold, and they said, We must not listen to the voice of the people, lest we cut off the sources of our wealth.

C H A P. XXVII.

AND the war continued and raged dreadfully, and the Cassiterides lost both territory and armies, and the people were grievously oppressed; till at length the power of the old council expired, and a new one was called: and the people continued to meet, and to watch over the actions of the new council; and the leaders thereof began to open their eyes. And behold, the nation was divided into two sects; the one was called the Sect of the Guillamites, and the other of the Children of Tor: and between these two almost

most the whole land was divided. And the Children of Tor began to join themselves to the Guillamites, and there was but one voice to be heard amongst them; and that was, to pull down the evil counsellors, and to put an end to the war.

And the great council passed a vote, that whoever proposed the continuance of the war he should be held as an enemy to his country. And a day was set apart to take under solemn consideration, the state of the country, for the people, yea, some of the great men were grievously alarmed; yea, with reason were they terrified, for it appeared that the nation was on the very brink of destruction.

The loss of their traffick had been exceedingly great, but that was the least evil. Peace, on her olive wings, might again bring back their traffick and commerce. They had also lost territory and armies, but what was still a greater evil, and which they dreaded more than all, was, that they had borrowed vast treasures of all nations; yea, so immense were the sums which they had borrowed, that in the twenty-second year of the reign of the King, their debts amounted to thirty-six thousand and five hundred and sixteen talents* of gold, and upwards; yea, to two hundred and seventeen millions, two hundred

* In English money a Hebrew talent is £. 5475.

dred and fifty thousand shekels* of gold. Their friends stood afar off, and their enemies increased; and behold, they were in a dangerous and fearful plight.

C H A P. XXVIII.

AND there was a man of the house of Nevac, a Guillamite, and he descended from the mountains of *Der*; and he stood forth in the great council, and he was a man of integrity and of great repute, and he laid before them the state of the country; and he proved that all the evils they suffered, and the dangers to which they were exposed, arose from the war against the children of Amer, and from the waste and bad management of the rulers.

And the matter was long and vehemently debated, from noon even until midnight, for though the spirit of delusion had ceased, yet the spirit of Mammon still prevailed, and blinded the eyes, and took possession of the hearts of many; and in the issue the evil counsellors prevailed, to the great confusion and sorrow of the people did they prevail. And lo! after a few days was the subject again taken up, by one of the children of Tor, and he was of the house of Suor. And he
opened

* A shekel of gold is 18s. 3d.

opened his mouth, and said, " Am I not
 " of the same sect with the man who pre-
 " sides over the treasures of the nation, and
 " have not he and his followers found fa-
 " vour in my sight, and in the sight of
 " many of my friends? And did we not ex-
 " pect great things from his hands? And
 " have not our eyes been blinded, yea our
 " understandings covered as with a veil?
 " But now, lo! mine eyes are opened, and
 " would that they were closed again; for
 " what do I behold but the utter ruin of
 " my country? yea, should the war on the
 " children of Amer continue, the extinc-
 " tion of the very name of the Cassiterides!"

And the matter was more vehemently de-
 bated than ever, and the council chamber
 was filled; for, lo! the sick, and the lame,
 and the ancient, (bending under the weight
 of their years) were sought for, out of every
 corner of the kingdom, and brought up to
 give their voices on this great and solemn
 occasion.

And the people waited with extreme im-
 patience; yea, with great anxiety and con-
 cern did they wait the determinations of
 the great council. And notwithstanding the
 children of Tor and the Guillamites were
 joined, and that the friends of the people
 strove hard, and did their utmost; yet the
 evil counsellors prevailed a second time, but
 they prevailed but by a few; and they and

all

all men saw that their power was drawing towards an end, and they knew not which way to turn them. They feared to yeild up their power, and to keep it they knew not how; for they beheld that the faces of all men were set against them, and they were in a great streight.

C H A P. XXIX.

AND behold there was a man, an Eborite, and he was descended from the Princes of the country, and his ancestors had been idolators for many generations, but he became a profelyte to the true religion, and his family had enjoyed vast possessions, and they still had great ones remaining, and he was one of the great council of the nation, and he was a friend to the nation; and he said within himself, "My possessions are large, my friends and kindred are numerous. But behold, my possessions, my friends and kindred, yea, even the land itself, is it not on the very brink of destruction, and shall I not stir a finger in their behalf? Verily, I will do to the utmost of my power; I will bring the matter to an issue; I will lay the axe to the root of this great evil; I will move for the expulsion of these wicked counsellors, and, peradventure, I may prevail."

And

And he gave notice, and he set a day to utter the thoughts of his heart, even the * twentieth day of the seventh month did he set; and when the day came, and the evil counsellors saw that the children of Tor and the Guillamites were joined, and that the faces of all men were set against them, their hearts failed them, and their knees smote together, and they spake by the mouth of one of their leaders, saying, "What do they desire, or what would you have of us? our power, lo! is it not at an end? only wait with patience, till it shall appear whom the King will appoint to minister in our places."

And his saying pleased the great council, and they agreed thereto, and the evil counsellors walked out, (on the twentieth day of the seventh month did they walk out) they and all their abettors; and their countenances were wan and ghastly, for they wot not what would follow.

For they knew they had gathered great riches, at the expence of the people had they gathered them; and they knew they had squandered the treasures, and wasted the strength of the nation. *This* also they knew, that their *deeds were evil*, and *they feared the recompence of their deeds*.

D

CHAP.

* The month of September was the first month in the Jewish Calendar.

C H A P. XXX.

AND the great council separated for a little time, and the evil counsellors were removed, and another set of men were put in their places; and these men were of a race who delighted not in the war, yea, who had foretold from the beginning, all the evils it would bring upon the nation: And the hearts of the people were exceeding glad, for they had confidence in those men, and they shouted for joy, and cried, May the King live for ever, who at length hath listened to the voice of his people. And the new counsellors devised, and made many excellent laws and statutes; and behold, all that they did, and the laws which they made, are they not to be found in the records of the kingdom? And they sought for peace from their enemies, and the affairs of the nation began to take another turn.

And lo! there was a neighbouring island, part of the dominions of the King; and the inhabitants thereof had been the greatest part of them idolaters for many ages: and in times past they had committed great cruelties on such of the Cassiterides as had settled amongst them; and they were fallen upon by a great leader of that nation (and he was a mighty man) and he defeated them; and he laid siege to their towns and fortresses, and he took them. And the inhabitants there-
of

of he put to the edge of the sword; in revenge for the cruelties they had committed on his countrymen, did he slay them; and he left them in subjection like as a conquered nation.

Howbeit this was the crime of a part only, it was not the crime of the whole of those people, for many of them had of old time been friends to the Cassiterides. And after the war was over, and had ended thus prosperously for that nation, and notwithstanding they had put those in authority who were friends to them; yet nevertheless was an army kept up in their land, and they were not dealt kindly with; for they were suffered to export to other countries neither their herds, nor the wool of their flocks; and they were restrained also in many other things.

And lo! after that the Gauls and Iberians had joined in the war, and that the hosts of the Cassiterides were not able to cope with the hosts of their enemies, they were obliged in their own defence to withdraw a part of their army from this island; and the people thereof finding themselves naked and defenceless, feared lest they should fall a prey to the Gauls; and they prayed for leave to arm, and to defend themselves, and their prayer was granted. And when they had armed themselves and found themselves able to meet their enemies in battle, they feared not what the Gauls could do unto them, and their apprehensions vanished away.

C H A P. XXXI.

AND being thus delivered from the fear of their enemies, they began to look around them, and to consider the State of their country, how that they were in subjection to the rulers of the Cassiterides; and it entered into their hearts to lay their case before them, and they complained of the evils which oppressed them; and their evils had been greatly encreased by the war, *for lo! the war had brought good to no part of the King's dominions: Yea, it had brought afflictions and evils on every part thereof.*

And they had carried their requests to the foot of the throne, and it was in the time of the old counsellors; and though they listened somewhat to the complaint of these people, yet the relief which they granted them was but small, and the people were not satisfied therewith: and in a short time they petitioned again, and they felt their own strength, and they urged their requests with greater boldness. For they said, Do ye not deal with us unjustly? "Deal justly with us, as ye would wish to be dealt withal yourselves." And the old counsellors were puzzled, and knew not on which hand to turn them; for these things were done in their time. And after they were removed, the prayer of these people came before the
great

great council of the nation. And there was a man famous for his understanding, and he was a great Orator, and when he spoke the young men listened with deep attention, and the old lamented the loss of their hearing; and he had long supported the interests of the people, (yea, when they were blind to their own interests had he supported them) and he was the great favourite of the people; and he was appointed one of the chief scribes of the nation, and he spoke in behalf of these people; and whilst he spoke every tongue was mute and every breath was hushed, for his words were strong and penetrating, and his eloquence, though it flowed rapid as a torrent, yet was it deep and clear as the waters of Pharphar or Abana. And behold, through the power of his eloquence, and the justice of their cause, (for their cause was clear as the sun in the midst of the heavens) did he obtain for them all that they desired. And, lo! are they not even at this day as free as their brethren the Cassiterides themselves?

C H A P. XXXII.

AND the proceedings of the great council were just and right, and their actions did honour to the nation: and it seemed as if the Lord blessed their righteous doings; for on the day before the day on which this resolution

resolution was taken, did tidings arrive of a great victory and addition of territory gained in the East; and on the day after, of a much greater victory by sea, obtained over the ancient enemies of the King in the West. And the latter victory seemed not more fortunate than providential; for had the battle been delayed for a time, yea for ever so short a season, would not the fleets of their enemies have joined, and their numbers have rendered them invincible? And would not the riches and produce of the isles of Amer have been lost? Yea, *would not the isles themselves have been cut off from the dominions of the King for ever?* And, lo! every mouth was filled with their praises. And the King bestowed honours and rewards on the Commanders, and they found great favour in his sight, and in the sight of all the people.

And with these tidings it came to pass, that the apprehensions of the people decreased, and the new counsellors employed themselves without ceasing, yea with the greatest diligence did they apply themselves in the affairs of the nation. And the increase and strength of the navies was their chief object; and the man to whose care the supplying the ships with provisions, cordage, and sails, and with implements of war, was entrusted, was one of the ablest mariners in the nation: and the man to whom the command of the ships was given, was like unto him; and men
of

of valour and experience were sought out for and employed. And the new counsellors grew daily in the favour of the people, and a ray of light began to break through the gloom which surrounded them. But behold, while these things were transacting, and the affairs of the nation were thus taking a prosperous turn, it pleased the Lord that a new calamity should befall them.

C H A P. XXXIII.

FOR, lo! the man on whose integrity the people relied, was cut off in the midst of his days! yea, at the very hour that he was pondering in his heart the good he would do unto his country, was he taken away! And the people mourned long and heavily for him; not without cause did they mourn, for his love of his country was pure and unmixed; he was neither to be tempted by bribes, nor terrified by dangers, nor misled by false arguments from pursuing the true interest of the nation: and though the people had confidence in the other counsellors, yet in him was placed their chief trust; and not without reason was it placed, for he was descended from the princes of the land, and his forefathers, for many generations, had been tried and honest men: his possessions were large, but the bounty of his heart was larger; and his zeal for the welfare of the Cassiterides exceeded

ceeded both. And though in his life-time he had been misrepresented and reviled, by some through malice, by others through ignorance, and by the wicked for that he was a stumbling block in their way; yet though he had suffered thus falsely whilst alive, at his death the tongue of slander was mute, and every mouth was opened in his praise; for truly he was a man, good, and merciful, and just. And the people mourned heavily for him, and their loss was great indeed, for he was the band which tied the other counsellors together; for, lo! immediately on his death, suspicions and misunderstandings arose amongst them, and they disagreed with one another, and separated.

And the hopes of the people sunk, for the danger of the country was imminent, and the expectations of the people were, that the new counsellors would proceed as one man, till they had brought the nation into a state of greater security. And lo! now, instead of mutual trust and confidence, nothing but suspicions and upbraidings were heard; and their time and talents, which at this perilous season should have been employed in combating the designs of their enemies, and the dangers and difficulties they were exposed to, too much of both was laid out in loading their adversaries with accusations, or freeing themselves therefrom.

C H A P. XXXIV.

* **O**H! wretched and perverse generation! when will ye be wise for yourselves? when will your eyes be opened to your own salvation? Your generosity, seconded by your valour, and hitherto exhaustless stores of wealth, has rescued millions from oppression; your prowess has resisted multitudes in arms—Princes unmindful that they owed their crowns to your generosity; yea, nations, dreading your sword, hitherto ever drawn in the cause of justice. No power on earth could hurt you but your own; and safe from all other perils, with your own hands must you open the dreadful gulph into which you are fallen—Fallen, alas! when to rise again?

How are the mighty fallen! how are the protectors of mankind brought low! How are the people whose treasures have been poured out like water, and whose blood has flowed in streams to protect the injured, and vindicate the oppressed; whose name has been wafted to the skies, on the breath and blessings of millions, snatched from the iron gripe of oppression! How, in one rash moment! by one unhappy act of doubtful interpretation; by one unguarded strain of the nerve of authority; have you weakened your
E strength,

* The translator here was obliged to depart from the letter, to preserve the spirit, of the original.

strength, defaced the fair fabrick, and destroyed the fame of ages! How have you made your children your enemies, and set yourselves up a laughing stock to the oppressor; yea, even tempted him to put on the guise of humanity, and to exhibit himself as the protector of the oppressed.

But beware, ye children of Amer, how you suffer your wrath to blind your understandings; bend not your ears to his deceitful lore, nor yield assistance to his baleful designs: fair and just (for the instant, in the hour of resentment) may they appear to you, but beware of the serpent beneath! nor farther tempt your fate, by weakening that power which in the hour of distress; in that hour when insatiable ambition shall pull off the mask; when your harbours shall be crowded with sails, and your lands covered with hosts; enemies to your forefathers, enemies to your country and your religion; when drove from your habitations, and from the plains, you shall fly to the mountains for shelter—Reduce not those people, nor farther weaken the strength of that nation, which alone, in that hour of darkness, with the power will have the inclination to save you. What reliance can you have on a nation whose study for years has been to ruin the peace and happiness of mankind, whose increase of glory has been impudently assigned as a reason for wars the most unprovoked and unjust; whose persecution has destroyed thousands of her own people,

people, and drove millions from their homes, to seek for shelter amongst foreign nations; for no other crime than that of worshipping their Creator according to his commands: who have broke through every tie that binds mankind; who have sported with the most sacred oaths; (even until their want of faith has become a proverb) whose power has hitherto been exerted solely to rob mankind of their rights, and to encrease the woes and calamities of human nature: Yea, who in the madness of their pride, have aimed at universal dominion?

Will the wolf protect the lamb? or the tyger the kid? then may ye also hope for friendship and protection from these people.

Are ye so ignorant of, or so blind to, the history of past times, as to hope that the Gauls are indeed become the friends of Liberty? or that the Iberians are zealous for the establishment of your power? Do the latter wish to preserve the command over their colonies? and will that command be rendered less precarious by your increase of strength? Are ye in a dream, and do ye imagine they are in truth and sincerity your friends? Rouse then from your slumbers, and behold your real friends in your brethren the Cassiterides. How many have mourned for the distresses brought upon you! how many have done their utmost to prevent them; and, failing in that, how many have tried to heal the wounds of both

countries! How many are there who have longed to behold the hour, when the mother and the child, throwing away their arms, should rush into the embraces of each other! And even now, are they not all of one mind, and do they not wish for peace and union with you?

Were not the present counsellors of the Cassiterides sensible of the folly of the war? Do they not wish to join with you as brethren; to enter into a just and solemn league with you? United, you had defiance to the designs of your enemies! unite again, and let not an act of hasty misconduct in the parent, or a false appearance of generosity in her enemies, for ever estrange the child, or prolong the wished-for reconciliation between them.

When their resentments subside, let the children of Amer reflect on the protection their infant state received; on the blood and treasure spent in their defence, by the Cassiterides; against those very people (*now* their *boasted* friends, *then* their avowed enemies) who openly fought for their ruin; the completion of which they scrupled not to bring to pass, by the assistance of the most barbarous and savage nations.

No! Generosity is no more the characteristic of the Gauls, than insolence of the Cassiterides: for a short season they seem both to have changed characters. But the natural bias will return, and each nation will resume their former habits and dispositions.

But

But whatever may be the event of the war, whatever the dispositions of the children of Amer, O! ye Cassiterides, be ye not wanting to yourselves! Is there any eloquence, is there any valour, any conduct or wisdom left amongst you—let them be all applied; let them be steadily directed to the pressing exigency of extricating the vessel of the State from amidst the numberless shoals which surround her!

Is there any ability, any vigour remaining! laying aside all poultry personal enmities, all private views, all mean selfish considerations, oh! ye great, ye leaders of the people, unite the whole for your own and their preservation; unite them for the Salvation of your country; and reflect, (with deep concern reflect) that all united may prove unequal to the task!

When the resources of the nation slowly answer the boundless, though pressing necessities of the state, who but ideots would dream of sharing in her spoils; who but wretches the most abandoned, would, for their private gain, wish to add to her calamities? When the ship is in danger of sinking, none but fools would contend about the helm.

Whether you enter into a treaty, or defer it to a more convenient season, weigh maturely in your own breasts, oh! ye rulers, the consequence of either!

Against

Against the propensity to a rash, hasty, and insecure peace, oppose the consideration of your numerous fleets and armies, of the defeats and disappointments of your foes. — Against the unnecessary lengthening of the war, weigh the loss of your traffick, and the endless amount of your debts.

Suffer neither your apprehensions to sink into despondency, nor your valour to soar into rashness; keep equally distant from either extreme: Bear with patience, O! ye people, the pressing burdens of the times.

Cut off unnecessary waste, and cleanse the polluted sources of your power, O! ye great; and then may your name once more rise with splendour amongst the nations, and a new phoenix spring from the ashes of the old.

C H A P. XXXV.

AND it came to pass at this time, notwithstanding the difference amongst the rulers, that the fortune of the war had turned out in favour of the Cassiterides.

There was a strong fortress, situated beyond the mouth of the River Betis, on one of the pillars of Hercules, won by the valour of their forefathers, and it had for many years been part of the dominions of the king; and, lo! it was an eye-sore to the Iberians, and they had gathered their fleets and their armies together, and had laid
siege

siege to it for many months: And the besieged laughed them to scorn. And behold, at this season, the Gauls, with their ships and soldiers, came to the assistance of, and joined the Iberians: And so powerful was the force brought against them, that all men gave up the fortresses for lost; and the people, even the princes of their enemies, came to behold the attack, as to a spectacle, yea, as to a certain victory did they come; for they relied on the number of their men, and the valour and skill of their leaders; for they had framed strong and wonderful machines, yea, such as had never been seen before.

And a day was set for the attack, and when the day came, and they had brought the machines with great difficulty and labour, and stationed them before the place: Behold, they were destroyed, yea, in a few hours, by the courage and skill of the besieged, were they reduced to ashes; and the soldiers and mariners therein would also have perished in the flames, had they not been rescued, at the peril of their lives, by the bold and amazing exertions of the besieged, whose valour and humanity their very enemies applauded; yea, even the princes and leaders of their hosts acknowledged: And the actions of those men did honour to the name of the Cassiterides.

And

And as soon as the winter approached, the great council of the nation were called together. Never were their affairs more embarrassed, nor ever did they stand in greater need of all their sagacity, activity, and prudence; never did they meet in a more perilous, or arduous season. For lo! on the wisdom of their councils hung the last glimmering hope of the Cassiterides.

And behold, the eyes of the whole nation were fixed upon them; and with the utmost anxiety did they await the issue of their determinations. * * * *

Defunct Cætera.



